Mahatma Gandhi, located at Pulianthope in Madras City, was damaged by miscreants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what measures the State Government have adopted to apprehend the culprits; and

(d) what measures the State Government have taken to repair the damaged statue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported the following facts regarding the incident:

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi, situated at Gandhi Maidan at No. 21, Kuttithambiran Street, Pulianthope, Madras-12, was damaged on 24-3-93.

On receipt of the report, a case (crime No. 353/93) u/s. 447 and 427 IPC., was registered by Pulianthope Police Station and investigated. During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that local youngsters who used the Gandhi Maidan to play Cricket has accidentally hit the cricket ball on to the statue and damaged it partially. The youngsters involved namely, D. Balaji (Age 19) and J. Kothandan (Age 19) of Pulianthope were arrested on 25-3-93. They were charged on 7-4-93 and were taken on file in C. C. No. 3487/93 in X Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Egmore. The accused were convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 250/- each on 28-7-93. Both the accused paid the fine.

The statue is being repaired.

**Women Cells set up in Delhi**

1202. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Women Cells have been set up in New Delhi to hear the Complaints of the women victimised by their in-laws; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that false complaints without FIRs are also being registered in these cells and if the complaints filed by women are proved false, no action is taken by these cells against the women filing such complaints;

(c) whether it is also a fact that false lists of dowry are submitted by the women in the cells and the innocent grooms and their parents are harassed by the cells to recover the items of dowry;

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take with regard to dowry if the groom agrees to keep the bride with him but she refuses to stay with him; and

(e) the number of such cases, registered with the Nanakpura and the ITO women cells, New Delhi during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) An Anti Dowry Cell was set up on 22-1-1983. Following recommendations of the Srivastava Committee which was appointed by the Government of India to go into the functioning of the Delhi Police, the Anti Dowry Cell was strengthened and re-designated as Crime Against Women Cell. The Cell primarily investigates cases of dowry deaths and other heinous crimes where women are the victims. In 1986, Crime Against Women Cells were also established at the district level.

(b) The Delhi Police has reported that on enquiries, a few complaints are found to be unsubstantiated. No action has been taken against such complaints.

(c) The list of dowry items submitted by the women are sometime found to be exaggerated. The Crime Against women Cells restore only those items of dowry which are mutually agreed upon by both the husband and the wife. If the ownership of the items claimed by a woman is not proved, no action is taken against the husband and his parents.

(d) In the event of a wife refusing to stay with her husband, the husband has no right to retain the gifts brought by her.

(e) The total number of complaints, received by the Crime Against Women Cell, Nanakpura, and district cells are as under:—

| *Month* | *Total complaints received* |
|---|---|
| April, 1993 | 581 |
| May, 1993 | 684 |
| June, 1993 | 708 |

**Rape of Children**

1203. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rape of children below ten years of age showed an alarming increase of more than 278 per cent during 1991 with the year recording 1099 cases as compared to 394 in the previous year, as per U. N. I. reports;